



Massachusetts Economic Update

September 20, 2016

Summary

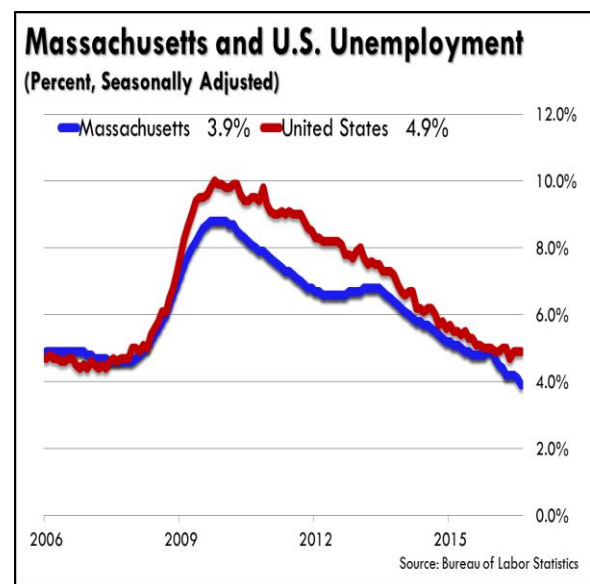
Nonfarm payroll employment in Massachusetts increased by 5,900 jobs, and the unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent in August according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).

Massachusetts Unemployment Rate

During August, the unemployment rate in Massachusetts declined by 0.2 percentage point to 3.9 percent. The number of people counted as unemployed fell by 4,403 in August to 141,715, while the labor force grew by 5,862 to 3,610,483. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 9 posted lower unemployment rates for the month than Massachusetts. A year earlier, the unemployment rate in Massachusetts stood at 4.8 percent.

The 10-year peak for the unemployment rate in Massachusetts was 8.8 percent in January 2010. The series high for the unemployment rate in Massachusetts occurred in January 1976 when the unemployment rate reached 10.7 percent. The 10-year low for the unemployment rate in Massachusetts was 3.9 percent in August 2016. The series low for the unemployment rate in Massachusetts occurred in October 2000 when the unemployment rate was 2.6 percent. BLS began publishing the state unemployment rate series in 1976.

The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.9 percent in August. August's unemployment rate was 0.2 percentage point lower than a year earlier. The 10-year high for the national unemployment rate was 10.0 percent in October 2009. The 10-year low was 4.4 percent in May 2007.



Massachusetts Payroll Employment

Massachusetts nonfarm payrolls increased by 5,900 jobs, or 0.17 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, nonfarm payrolls increased by 5,800. Over the past 12 months, nonfarm payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 68,100, or 1.94 percent. Massachusetts nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

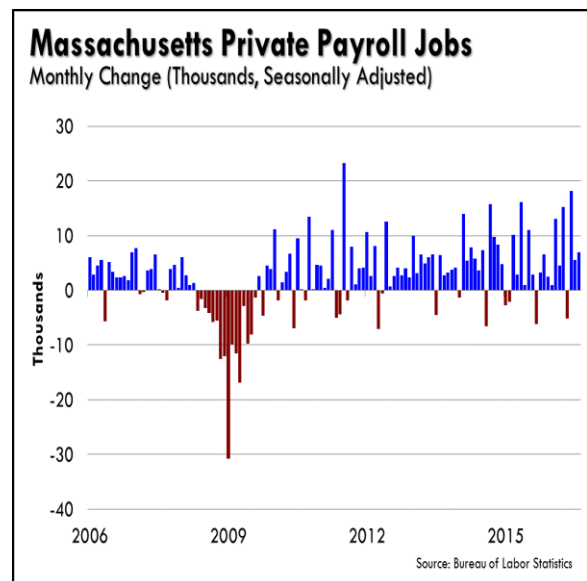
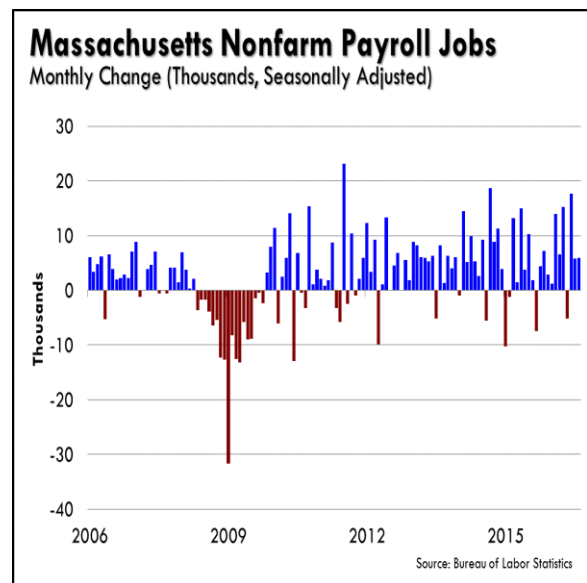
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 151,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the 12-month period ending August 2016, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,447,000 jobs, or 1.72 percent. Massachusetts ranks 18th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, Massachusetts private-sector payrolls increased by 6,900, or 0.22 percent. Private-sector payrolls increased by 5,600 jobs in the prior month. Over the past 12 months, private-sector payrolls in Massachusetts increased by 65,300, or 2.14 percent. Massachusetts private-sector payroll employment has increased in 10 of the past 12 months.

Nationally private-sector payroll jobs increased by 126,000 jobs in August, or 0.1 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,283,000 jobs in the private sector, an increase of 1.9 percent.

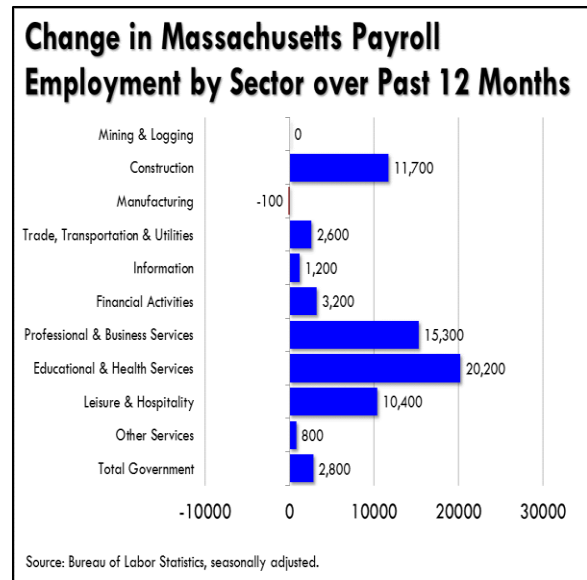
Massachusetts ranks 18th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During August, total government payroll employment in Massachusetts declined by 1,000, or 0.22 percent. Federal government payroll employment was unchanged. State government payroll employment declined by 1,100, or 0.81 percent, while local government payroll employment increased by 100, or 0.04 percent.



Over the past year, total government payroll employment increased by 2,800, or 0.62 percent. State government payroll employment increased by 1,700, or 1.29 percent. Local government payroll employment increased by 900, or 0.33 percent.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during August were Leisure & Hospitality (+2,200) and Educational & Health Services (+1,200). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Professional & Business Services (-1,400) and Total Government (-1,000).



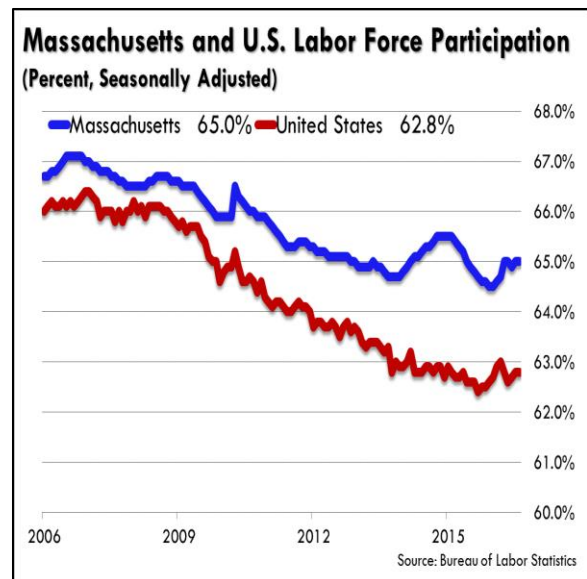
The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Educational & Health Services (+20,200) and Professional & Business Services (+15,300). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Manufacturing (-100) and Mining & Logging (unchanged).

Other Massachusetts Labor Force Statistics

The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts was unchanged at 65.0 percent in August. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 19 have a higher labor force participation rate than Massachusetts. The labor force participation rate in Massachusetts is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts was 67.1 percent in November 2006. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts occurred in December 1989 when the labor force participation rate hit 69.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 64.5 percent in January 2016. This also represents the series low for the labor force participation rate in Massachusetts.

The national labor force participation rate was unchanged at 62.8 percent, but remains near its 38-year low of 62.4 percent.



The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Massachusetts civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, rose to 62.5 percent in August from 62.3 percent the prior month. Among the 50 states and the District of Columbia, 13 have higher employment-to-population ratios than Massachusetts. The employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts is 0.8 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts was 63.8 percent in February 2007. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Massachusetts occurred in January 1999 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 66.7 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 60.1 percent in January 2010. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 1976 when the employment-to-population ratio was 57.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 59.7 percent in August. That rate was 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

State employment and unemployment data for September is scheduled for release on October 21, 2016. The national employment situation report for September will be released on Friday, October 7, 2016.

